



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

GRAD
HV
1626
.C43
1876
BUHR

B 1,035,309

TRAINING OF THE BLIND

REPORT

OF A

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY

PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 21, 1876

LONDON,

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

AND AT THE

CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY, 13 PUCKINGHAM STREET,
ADELPHI, W.C.

1876

Price One Shilling

3 9015 00121 8059



1817



1

2

TRAINING OF THE BLIND

REPORT

OF

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY, *London*

PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 21, 1876



LONDON

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

AND AT THE

CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY, 15 BUCKINGHAM STREET,
ADELPHI, W.C.

1876

HV
1626
.C43
1876
Buhr

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
REPORT	3

APPENDICES:—

I. METROPOLITAN AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND . . .	31
TABLE I. PENSION FUNDS	40
TABLE II. INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CHARITIES	42
II. SUGGESTIONS TO PARENTS OF BLIND CHILDREN . .	43
III. TABULAR STATEMENT OF OCCUPATIONS	46
IV. EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF THE VIENNA CONGRESS OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND	47
V. EXTRACTS FROM ACTS OF PARLIAMENT	57

ND

REPORT.

THE question of improving the condition of the Blind has recently engaged much attention, both in America and on the Continent, and Congresses have been held in the United States and at Vienna for the purpose of discussing the best means of fully developing the remaining faculties of those who are suffering from that most distressing affliction, the loss of vision; the subject has not, however, received in England, and more especially in the Metropolis, sufficient consideration, although many of those interested in the Blind have been impressed with an idea that the time had arrived for bringing into communication the various agencies engaged in promoting their welfare, and also for instituting an inquiry as to the measures likely to prove most effectual towards elevating their position, and securing for the young a suitable training, particularly from the industrial point of view.

Origin of
Com-
mittee.

This important question having been brought under the cognisance of the Charity Organisation Society, the Council, viewing it as a matter both of philanthropy and sound political economy, determined, at its meeting on the 13th of July 1874, to take the requisite steps towards furthering the above views; and, with this object, after consulting several persons well qualified, from their known sympathy with those who had lost their sight, to express an opinion upon the subject, convened a Special Committee 'to consider what more could be done to promote the welfare of the Blind, and especially their industrial training.'

This Committee comprised a few members of the Council of the Charity Organisation Society; but consisted principally of gentlemen connected with associations for assisting the Blind,

Constitu-
tion.

and consequently capable of affording valuable information for the guidance of the Committee, and of forming a sound opinion as to the expediency of the various measures that might be advocated for alleviating the state of suffering and helplessness generally attendant upon blindness.

Early notice of the formation of the Committee was sent to the ten Metropolitan Charities more especially interested in the industrial training and education of the Blind, and they were invited to appoint members to serve upon the Committee, who, whilst affording the benefit of their individual experience and judgment, should not be regarded in the light of representatives authorised in any way to pledge the governing bodies of their respective institutions to act upon such resolutions as might be passed.

Notice of the formation of the Committee was subsequently sent to the secretaries of all the pension societies and other agencies for the benefit of the Blind in the Metropolis, and of all the industrial institutions in the provinces, mentioned in the 'Guide to Institutions for the Blind' (Hardwick, London) compiled by Col. Mansfield Turner and Mr. W. Harris, and they were invited to send in the names of any persons known to them who were anxious or specially qualified to join the Committee, with a view to their being added to it.

The Committee held its first meeting on the 4th of November 1874, and has since met thirty-nine times.

The first meeting was devoted to the general consideration of the subject and the reading of papers and correspondence in regard to it from Miss Gilbert, Col. Mansfield Turner, Mr. Martin, Superintendent of the Edinburgh Workshops, and others unable to be present.

The Committee then proceeded to consider the sequence in which the subjects to be brought under discussion should be introduced, and the following order was agreed on at the second meeting:—

I. What is being done industrially for the Blind, and in what ways—

- (a) For children.
- (b) For untrained adults.
- (c) For trained adults.

II. What more can be done through existing agencies?

- (a) By improvements in system of working.
- (b) By opening up new employments.
- (c) By co-operation amongst the agencies.

III. What new agencies, if any, are required ?

IV. To what extent can the Blind become self-supporting ?

V. What provision at present exists for the support of the Blind not able to maintain themselves by their own industry, and what improvements, if any, are desirable in the system on which funds for this purpose are administered ?

VI. To what extent should the education and training of the Blind be provided for from the rates or other public sources ?

Previous, however, to any discussion taking place, it was determined to obtain data upon which to base resolutions, and the succeeding facts, among others, were ascertained.

In the census returns, 1871, the Blind in the Metropolis Data. were stated to be 2,890 in number, of whom 292 (155 males and 137 females) were under the age of 15 ; 991 (532 males and 459 females) were over 15 and under 50 ; and 1,607 (659 males and 948 females) were above 50. Of these only 1 in 12 was returned as born blind.

By the courtesy of the Local Government Board the Committee have been furnished with statistics which show that in July 1875, 493 blind persons were inmates of Metropolitan Poor-law institutions. Of these 6 were under 16 years of age ; 41 were over 16 and under 40 ; and 446 were over 40.

It is believed that, at present, about 70 per cent. of the Blind are, through age, bodily infirmity, and other causes, incapable of work. It may, therefore, be roughly calculated that there are in London between 800 and 900 blind adults capable of employment, a large proportion of whom may require some form of industrial assistance, exclusive of nearly 300 blind children, the greater number of whom are of an age and capacity to receive education.

Much information was obtained with reference to Metropolitan charitable agencies for the benefit of the Blind ; a summary of which will be found in the Appendix, p. 40.

There are three institutions at which industrial as well as mental training is given to blind children, viz.: the School for the Indigent Blind, St. George's Fields ; the School for the

Blind, Upper Avenue Road ; and the Royal Normal College, Upper Norwood.

At the two former, this training has special reference to the manufacture of basket and cane work and knitted and netted articles, tuition in music being only included when there may be a prospect of such tuition being attended with success. At the last-named, instruction in music and tuning is the only industrial training given.

There are four institutions which were formed to offer both training and employment to adults: the Association for the General Welfare of the Blind: the Surrey Association; the Alexandra Institution*; and the Association for Establishing Workshops.

The Indigent Blind Visiting Society, the Home Teaching Society, and the South London Association are intended for the instruction of the Blind of all ages in other than industrial knowledge; the first-named also granting relief and the last-named recognising this as within its scope.

I.—‘WHAT IS BEING DONE INDUSTRIALLY FOR THE BLIND, AND IN WHAT WAYS, (a) FOR CHILDREN; (b) FOR UNTRAINED ADULTS; (c) FOR TRAINED ADULTS?’

Existing
Industrial
Provision.

Much additional and valuable information having been submitted by gentlemen connected with institutions for the Blind both in London and in the provinces, the Committee took into consideration the subject which, under the regulated order of business, was to be the first brought under discussion, and passed resolutions to the following effect:—

That, although sufficient provision is now being made in the metropolis, both in special institutions and at sighted schools, for the intellectual training of blind children, hitherto hardly any efforts have been directed towards the instruction of infants, and that

1. The Committee are unable to learn that any special efforts have yet been made in the United Kingdom for the instruction of the infant Blind.

2. So far as numbers are concerned sufficient provision is now being made for the general intellectual education of the blind children of London by special institutions and societies, and at sighted

* Though efforts are still being made to carry on this Institution, it is feared that its operations must be discontinued owing to the want of the necessary funds.

there is a great need of further opportunities for affording industrial training both to children and adults, as well as securing for them subsequent employment.

schools; but, as a general rule, industrial training, except of a preliminary nature, is not afforded to children under fourteen years of age.

3. The special industrial training provided for the adult Blind in London is not sufficient for the number who require it.

4. Outside the special training provided by existing institutions, there is a considerable and increasing, but still insufficient amount of training towards industrial employment afforded to the Blind, by means of the elevation of character caused by the instruction imparted by the visitors of the different societies, as well as by private individuals.

5. The Committee are unable to learn that, as a general rule, there exists any provision, in connection with the Blind Institutions in London, for the employment of trained blind people, with the exception of those who are admitted by the process of election or by special selection; and they are of opinion that the facilities afforded for the employment of trained adults fall far short of what is required.

In arriving at these conclusions the Committee have been necessarily guided by the knowledge that, although, roughly speaking, out of 3,000 Blind residing in the Metropolitan district, nearly 2,000 are afforded the opportunity of acquiring some mental instruction by means of special schools, classes, and home-teaching societies, in addition to those—at present few in number, though increasing—who are receiving education at ordinary sighted schools, the advantages of industrial training are only available for about 50 adults,* whilst the number of trained adults for whom employment is provided by institutions probably does not exceed

* It should be observed that a large proportion even of this small number are not permanently resident in London, but have come up on purpose to be trained; and a similar consideration applies, to some extent, to the trained workers.

150. This number is evidently far below that of the indigent but able-bodied Blind, who, whilst seriously hindered by their infirmity from finding work in the open market, are by no means desirous of eating the bread of idleness, and would gladly accept any suitable occupation that might be offered, and of whom it may be assumed that a large proportion are now dependent either upon the rates or upon private charity.

Improvements recommended—

II.—‘ WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE THROUGH EXISTING AGENCIES ; (a) BY IMPROVEMENTS IN SYSTEM OF WORKING ; (b) BY OPENING UP NEW EMPLOYMENTS ; (c) BY CO-OPERATION AMONGST AGENCIES ? ’

In training the young.

Upon the second subject for consideration, the Committee resolved as follows :—

First. That the general training of the young Blind should begin almost from very infancy, and that this training should include such instruction as may tend to the development of the physical as well as mental powers; also, that although cases may occur in which it may be advisable for children above the age of five years to be received for a limited period into special Institutions, it is desirable, as a general rule, that they should be educated with the sighted at ordinary elementary schools, where they should remain until they reach the age of fifteen, when their industrial training, which should be of a thorough character so as to qualify them in a great measure, if not entirely, to gain their own livelihood, ought to commence.*

6. Blind children under the age of five years should be taught at home to feed and dress themselves, and should, if possible, be taught to read by means of the various agencies for visiting and teaching the Blind at their own homes; but, in order that they may be properly taught when circumstances admit of home training, simple but adequate instructions should be prepared and circulated as to the best modes of managing and bringing up blind children.

7. The Committee think it highly desirable that blind children should be educated during a portion of their time with the sighted, and are of opinion that efforts should therefore be made to provide in elementary public schools for those not in special schools; also that, to induce teachers to receive blind children willingly, full information as to the details of their management in schools should be circulated, with an account of the results of this system in Scotland and in London.

8. Both blind boys and girls should, as early as possible, be instructed in exercises and employments suitable for developing the physical as well as mental

* *It has been found that youths possessing musical ability, who have*

powers, and especially fineness of touch—such as drill, gymnastics, knitting, netting, and sewing—with the view of fitting them for work in after-life, and furnishing them with employment when at home.

9. The Committee recommend the managers of Blind Institutions to admit blind children above the age of five for about a year's training, should it be deemed necessary by the managers of any ordinary day-school that such preliminary training be given; and that such children, after being so prepared, should be sent home in order to continue their education in the public elementary schools.

10. The Committee recommend that the age up to which blind children should attend an elementary school be fifteen instead of thirteen (the age for the sighted); that after this arrangements should be made for continuing their education and teaching them trades, and that the training should be such as thoroughly to fit them for the trade or calling by which they are most likely eventually to support themselves.

11. In order to secure remunerative and regular labour for the trained Blind, it is essential—

That, in the organisation of blind labour, the workers should be primarily selected and employed according to their competence for the tasks allotted them, on the ordinary commercial principle.

That the work done in workshops

Secondly. That, with the view of securing regular and fairly-paid labour for the Blind, additional training establishments and workshops urgently required, and that the work should be conducted by ex-

and the age of fifteen, can be qualified, by instruction at the Royal Naval College, so as to earn on leaving from 25 to 30 shillings a week; the experience of similar institutions abroad has invariably shown a far larger proportion of the Blind can acquire the skill requisite in their living when suitable instruction is given them from a very early age. The authorities of the College therefore deem it important pupils should be admitted, if possible, between eight and thirteen years of age.

perienced and efficient managers and foremen with suitable assistants, and under the same conditions as any other manufactory; workmen being selected according to their respective qualifications, and employed upon the work they are best fitted to execute, receiving corresponding remuneration.

should be under the supervision of competent sighted foremen, and with the assistance of blind fellow-workers.

That workshops should be conducted by an experienced sighted manager, on the same principles as any ordinary well-conducted business.

That only the amount actually earned should be paid under the head of wages, and that any further sum granted for the purpose of maintenance or otherwise should be charged to a separate account.

12. Election under the voting system is in an especial manner inapplicable to institutions for the educational and industrial training of the Blind; and admission by selection, after a careful comparison of the different candidates, should form a necessary part of improvements in the system of working.

13. It is too often a serious injury to the Blind that articles made by them should be sold as 'blind manufactures, and it would be an improvement in the system of working of Blind Institutions, and more conducive to the general welfare of the Blind, if advantage were taken of the open market to secure the sale of such articles at their intrinsic market value.

14. This Committee, considering that workshops are among the most useful of existing agencies, both for training and employing the Blind, recommend that they should be established in greater numbers, in order that in each populous district there may be one so placed that the blind work-people employed in it may not have too far to walk to it from their homes.

15. It is desirable to encourage the employment of the Blind among the sighted; and, inasmuch as the Blind work to most advantage when assisted by the labours of *seeing* workmen, the Committee are of opinion that material

By co-
operation
among
agencies.

Thirdly. That material benefits are likely to accrue from the establishment of a thorough system of co-operation and intercommunication between the various agencies, having for their object the improvement of the condition of the Blind, and that this system could best be introduced by means of a General Council, composed of representatives from the several societies.

advantages would result from a judicious utilisation of the hitherto undeveloped capabilities of the Blind, and the Committee commend this subject to the favourable consideration of all employers of manual labour.

16. Great advantages would arise from the co-operation of all agencies for promoting the welfare of the Blind both in the metropolis and throughout the country.

17. Such co-operation among the agencies and throughout the country would be best carried out by their sending representatives to a permanent council; such council not to interfere with the autonomy of the different societies.

18. A central agency and sample depôt for the disposal of goods manufactured by the Blind, and a central system of record and exchange information regarding blind applicants for relief, employment, and education, are among the results to be looked for from the institution of a permanent council.

Although, under the regulations of one Institution—the Royal Normal College—there is no special proviso with respect to the age for admission, it may be assumed that, as a rule, children are not admitted to existing Blind schools until they are at least eight years of age, and of those attending sighted schools there are comparatively few below that age.* As, however, in order to compensate in some degree for the loss of sight, it is essential that their remaining powers should be most thoroughly developed, it is absolutely necessary that their physical training should be commenced at the earliest possible age, and consequently that the time spent in infancy at their own homes should not be wasted, as is now too often the case; the fact of its infirmity being frequently considered a sufficient justification for allowing a blind child

Training
of the
young.

* There is a small Home for Blind Children at Kilburn (*see* Appendix, p. 42), into which both boys and girls are admitted between the ages of five and ten.

to remain in a state of utter helplessness instead of being early taught to make use of its powers of manipulation and locomotion, so as to render it capable of attending an ordinary school or eligible for admission to one of the special institutions where children are not received until they are able to feed and dress themselves.*

At present there is no actual provision for the preliminary education of such young blind children as, though of an age to attend an ordinary school, are prevented from doing so owing to ill-health or other causes; and it appears, therefore, desirable that the rules under which children are received into institutions for the Blind should be somewhat relaxed in their favour, or special schools established for their reception.

The Committee by no means undervalue the many advantages, in a physical point of view, and still more particularly in encouraging habits of self-help and self-reliance that must accrue from the attendance of blind children at ordinary schools and classes; at the same time they cannot but consider that these advantages would be materially increased by a larger portion of school training being directed to bodily exercise, as likely to improve the muscular action, and to give health and vigour to frames which, it must be remembered in the case of the Blind, are often weakened by disease or constitutional debility. They are also of opinion that ordinarily the education of blind children, destined to earn their own livelihood, should be continued for a longer period than is needed for the sighted of the same class; so that, both mentally and physically, they may be fully qualified to undergo the fatigue attendant upon every description of industrial training, which, in their case should be most complete and thorough, to give them a chance of contending with their sighted competitors in the labour market.

Ordinary
Schools.

The experiment of educating the Blind at ordinary

* A paper of Suggestions to Parents, based on a draft kindly furnished by Mr. Buckle, Superintendent of the York Blind School, will be found in the Appendix, p. 43. Any person desirous of circulating this is at liberty to reprint it.

sighted schools has been, for seven years past, conducted in several places in Scotland with perfect success ; * and in London, already, blind pupils have been admitted into more than twenty schools. The beneficial result of the development of this system of instruction cannot be overrated ; for, when the mental faculties of the Blind have not been impaired by disease, they are as acute as those of the seeing, and the feeling of emulation caused by tuition in common creates a healthy stimulus to the exercise of those faculties which must lead to their most finished cultivation. Doubtless, at first, objections may be raised on the part of teachers to assuming the additional responsibility ; but it is believed that these objections may be overcome, and that, with the aid of the necessary appliances, such as books in raised type, embossed maps, and frames for writing and arithmetic, and a suitable set of rules for their guidance, the tuition of the Blind may not cast any undue strain upon the attention of instructors, or in any way interfere with the performance of their ordinary duties. Fears have been entertained lest the Blind might be subjected to illtreatment from their sighted school-fellows, but experience shows that these are groundless ; on the contrary, owing to the feeling of compassion with which they are generally regarded, they meet with the greatest kindness.

The necessity for blind workmen being specially selected for the particular task upon which they are to be employed, and, being afterwards in a great measure restricted to that particular description of work, so as to ensure, as far as practicable, excellence of workmanship, seems self-evident. Sighted workmen have the advantage of vision as well as touch ; yet there are many, painters and decorators for instance, who, although thrown out of employ for many months, will not undertake any other work than that to which they have been trained for fear of injuring their delicacy of touch. How much more essential, therefore, must it be to the blind man, who has only his sense of touch

Work
for the
trained

* An account of this is given in the Report of the Glasgow Mission to the Outdoor Blind for 1874. See also 'A New Era,' by Alexander Barnhill, Secretary of that Society.

to guide him, that, in order to reap the full benefit of any skill that he may have acquired, he should be kept to the work to which his hands have become thoroughly accustomed. Moreover, amongst blind as amongst sighted workmen there are men of different capabilities. One may have strength and be able to do rough work; another may have dexterity of fingering and may excel in delicate work, and both descriptions may be needed in the construction of one article. Hence, it is desirable that each should be employed upon that portion for which he is particularly qualified, and by which he will therefore make the greatest earnings.

Although some blind persons have proved themselves very efficient workers, yet, when it is remembered that a person deprived of sight can only properly supervise the work of one person at a time, and that his powers of control and supervision must thus be in a great degree limited, if not altogether neutralised, the expediency as a general rule of having sighted foremen for large establishments can scarcely be denied; besides this, there may be articles manufactured at workshops of which all the component parts may be made by the Blind, yet the putting together and the finishing touches may require the use of the eye as well as of the hand, and for such work the services of a sighted foreman are invaluable. Blind learners, however, it is stated, often receive great assistance from the teaching of their blind fellow-workmen, who, from their knowledge of the difficulties with which they themselves have had to contend, are better able to instruct them in the management of their hands, so as to overcome those difficulties; and who, perhaps, from the mutual bond of sympathy that must naturally exist, may be inclined to be more patient and forbearing over awkwardness than a sighted overseer.

Though it would be most undesirable to diminish in any way the self-respect of the Blind, by compelling them to recognise their indebtedness to charity, yet the system of paying the efficient and the inefficient alike is also to be deprecated, as placing all upon the same level, and thus depriving them of a strong incentive to exertion. The *Committee* consequently recommend that only the amount actually

earned by a blind man at market rates should be paid to him as wages ; any additional allowance that may be made to him being entered in a separate account, and given to him as extra remuneration, or under any other designation least likely to wound his feelings.

The system of paying the actual amount of their earnings as a distinct sum may also be advocated in a statistical point of view, as it would admit of the preparation of tables showing the amount of wages which a blind workman could earn, and consequently the standard of efficiency to which he could attain, and the most remunerative occupation on which he could be employed.

Considering the urgent need for bringing the Blind under industrial training whilst they are still of an age to benefit by it, the expediency of guarding as far as possible against any lengthened delay in admitting an applicant to any institution where such training can be acquired is obvious.

Although, owing to the introduction of the charitable element, there may be, in some cases, a demand for articles made by the Blind that enhances their value beyond their intrinsic worth and gives them what may be described as a sentimental value ; yet there is often a popular prejudice against such articles, owing to the impression that they must be of inferior quality—an impression that is certainly very erroneous, as articles manufactured by blind labour, in consequence of the minute manipulation required, the necessity that exists for using only good material, and the test to which they are subjected, are frequently of a superior description to those turned out at ordinary workshops. Hence, whilst the purchasers consider that they are supporting a charity, in reality they are receiving a just equivalent for their money. It is true that the retail sale of articles made at workshops for the Blind may attract attention, and, by awakening an interest in the Institutions, secure a few regular customers ; yet this interest must naturally be restricted in a great measure to the residents in the immediate neighbourhood ; and it has accordingly been considered that it would conduce to the welfare of the Blind, if, in the disposal of their manufactures, more advantage were taken of the *open market*.

As it has been calculated that amongst the Blind 23 per cent. are between the ages of 15 and 40, and therefore, under ordinary circumstances, capable of undergoing industrial training; and 27 per cent. between 40 and 60, and able, in the event of their having been trained, to earn something towards their own livelihood, it is highly desirable that the means of obtaining the requisite training and subsequent employment should be placed within their reach. At present this is not the case, and the number of workshops for the Blind, both within the Metropolis and at convenient centres throughout the country, might be greatly increased with a very beneficial effect.

Even at ordinary workshops, the labour of the trained Blind in co-operation with that of sighted workmen might, in some instances, be advantageously utilised. This labour is now in a great degree lost to the community, and it is a question for the consideration of employers whether suitable openings may not be found for the exercise of their industrial powers.

Co-operation
among
Agencies.

The establishment, by the aid of a General Council and a Central Office, of a thorough system of record of general information on all subjects connected with the Blind, as well as of intercommunication between the different agencies for promoting their welfare, would be productive of good in many respects.

Administrators of charities would have access to the means of tracing the antecedents and of ascertaining the exact position of all applicants for relief, and would thus be enabled to give their several claims just consideration, and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that the funds at their command were bestowed only upon the most necessitous and deserving and in accordance with their real wants; whilst the indigent Blind themselves, more particularly those capable of working for their own livelihood, would cease to be demoralised by the opportunities now offered of passing their time in inactivity, owing to the means of subsistence being available in the shape of pensions, often secured by practising deceit and imposition upon societies intended for the benefit only of those who are in actual need.

Moreover, the meeting of representatives of various institutions at a General Council would, doubtless, lead to an exchange of ideas and information tending to the introduction of useful reforms in the treatment of the Blind, from which advantageous results might fairly be anticipated.

Acting in concert, workshops for the Blind might be prepared to execute large orders, and thus be able to secure a considerable business, either by accepting contracts offered for public competition or by taking agreements to supply great retail houses; but at present, singly, it must often be beyond their power to enter into any such arrangement, and it is therefore thought that the existence of a Central Agency and Sample Dépôt would probably facilitate the disposal of articles manufactured and ensure their constant and ready sale, as well as afford the Institutions themselves the means of buying raw material to advantage.

The question of the nature of the employments best suited for the Blind having engaged the attention of the Committee, a table (*see* Appendix, p. 46) has been prepared showing the different occupations known to be followed by blind persons, and distinguishing those by an asterisk which seem to the Committee most suitable for them. As regards persons who may lose their sight after they have become acquainted with any profession, trade, or other occupation, the Committee desire to endorse the opinion of a member of their body, who is himself blind, that they should, as a rule, in the first place endeavour to follow this calling, or some modification of it, as in this way the special knowledge already acquired will still be available as soon as the blind person has learnt how he can best apply it in his altered circumstances.

Employ-
ments.

III.—‘WHAT NEW AGENCIES, IF ANY, ARE REQUIRED?’

New
Agencies.

Under the third head, it was determined—

That it would be advantageous to establish preparatory schools for the instruction of infants, and that encouragement

19. In default of the provision of the opportunities recommended in resolution 9, the Committee approve of the formation of preparatory schools for the early training and care of blind chil-

might be given to the apprenticeship of the blind at ordinary workshops, and also to the course pursued in Saxony of placing them out in trades and occupations throughout the country, keeping them, when necessary, supplied with raw materials, and continuing to watch generally over their welfare.

20. In view of experience in United States, and in order that more interest may be felt by employers in teaching them thoroughly, it is expedient to encourage, under suitable conditions, the employment of the Blind as apprentices or learners in ordinary workshops and manufactories.

21. The practice in Saxony, whereby institutions for the Blind adopt a system of placing out their pupils in trades and occupations throughout the country, supplying them with raw material at cost price when desired, and exercising care and supervision over their career, is deserving of the best consideration of managers of similar institutions in this country.

It has already been stated that at almost all the institutions established for the education of blind children it is a condition of admission that a child should be able to dress and feed itself; and, even though this rule should be somewhat relaxed, it is believed that there would still be a want of preparatory schools where infants might obtain that elementary training, more especially as regards the development of their physical powers, which, however well-intentioned, the parents may be prevented by want of time or want of means from affording at their own homes.

The employment of the Blind as apprentices or learners at ordinary workshops or manufactories or, as in Indianapolis, at special establishments mixed with sighted workmen, is to be earnestly desired. As the masters would profit by their labours, there would be many inducements for them to take an interest in their progress, and have them properly taught, so as to become, as far as their powers would admit, efficient workmen, capable possibly of seeking employment at the great centres of labour, and no longer feeling themselves a class apart, debarred by their infirmity from working in companionship with their fellows.

The practice adopted in Saxony of placing out blind people in trades and occupations in different parts of the

country has, it is stated, been productive there of much benefit. The pupil is, to some extent, made independent, whilst he still feels that he is not without friends to take an interest in his well-being, and is consequently induced to strive to prove himself deserving of the aid that is ready to be granted in the event of circumstances rendering it necessary.* It is of course a real boon, even to a struggling sighted workman, to be enabled to procure his raw materials of a good quality and at wholesale prices; how much more must this be the case as regards the Blind, who, in making their purchases, may be so easily deceived.

IV.—‘TO WHAT EXTENT CAN THE BLIND BECOME SELF-SUPPORTING?’

Under the fourth head it was agreed :—

22. That a large proportion of the able-bodied Blind are capable of being trained and employed in industrial and other occupations, and, with increased facilities for obtaining employment and improved organisation in the mode of conducting workshops, may become to a considerable extent self-supporting. Self-Support.

At present many blind men are known to be gaining at Institutions, by their own industry, 15s., and blind women 7s. per week; and if the advantages of industrial training and regular employment, now restricted to a few, were open to all, there can be little doubt that a large proportion of the able-bodied would succeed in releasing themselves from the degradation under which they now labour, of being largely dependent upon charity for their support, and in becoming useful members of society.

V.—‘WHAT PROVISION AT PRESENT EXISTS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE BLIND NOT ABLE TO MAINTAIN THEMSELVES BY THEIR OWN INDUSTRY, AND WHAT IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY, ARE DESIRABLE IN THE SYSTEM ON WHICH FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE ARE ADMINISTERED?’

Upon the fifth subject for consideration the Committee Charity & Relief passed resolutions embodying recommendations for the

* The Committee are indebted to General Bainbrigge for a translation of three papers extracted from the Report of the proceedings at the Vienna Congress, of which two copies were placed at their disposal through the kindness of the Austrian Ambassador. The above translation, which includes a paper by Herr Reinhard on the system pursued in Saxony, will be found in the Appendix to this Report, p. 47.

publication of the names and addresses of persons receiving relief from charitable institutions, and also for the grant of substantial aid, and the discouragement of any system of payments in small doles.

23. The Committee recommend that the name and address of each person helped should be inserted in the annual report of the institution or charity by which he or she is being assisted.

24. The Committee are of opinion that charitable relief to the able-bodied Blind in small sums should be, as a rule, discouraged, but that *substantial* help, in well-authenticated cases, and especially where aid in business or at the commencement of industrial or other occupations might be of permanent value, should be one of the chief objects to be aimed at; and that all trustees of public charity for the Blind should so co-operate and communicate with each other as not unintentionally to overlap in dispensing the money of which they are put in trust.

A glance at Table I. (Appendix, p. 40), which exhibits various sources from which funds for the relief of the Blind are available, is sufficient to show the necessity, with a view to check duplicity and falsehood, for the name and address of every recipient being duly recorded for general reference.

Although, under the peculiar circumstances of the Blind and the difficulties with which they have to contend in gaining a livelihood, cases must occur in which earnings may be systematically supplemented by charity, yet, in the case of the able-bodied Blind equally as in that of the sighted, the continuance of the dole system is greatly to be deprecated, and every opportunity should therefore be seized of raising them in their own estimation by affording them the means of emancipating themselves from the thralldom of pauperism, rather than retaining them under the demoralising influences of small occasional gifts.

VI.—‘TO WHAT EXTENT SHOULD THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF THE BLIND BE PROVIDED FOR FROM THE RATES OR OTHER PUBLIC SOURCES?’

Under this sixth head it was resolved :—

That endeavours ought to be

25. That the Committee recommend

e towards securing for the
d a suitable educational and
strial training, by inducing
Guardians of the Poor to
l themselves to the fullest
nt of the powers already
ed in them for this purpose,
ell as by urging upon the
the necessity of some modi-
on in their favour of the
under which grants in aid
now accorded to elementary
ls.

that the attention of Guardians of the Poor be requested to the powers vested in them under 25 & 26 Vict. c. 43, and 31 & 32 Vict. c. 122, with a view to their providing the indigent blind with the means of learning a trade by attendance at workshops, or of obtaining suitable education and training at the institutions established for this purpose, and that the several institutions be invited to urge that such provision be made in all suitable cases.

26. That, with a view to providing a sufficiency of well-qualified instructors, blind or sighted, it is expedient that, in like manner as opportunities are offered at institutions supported at the public expense for the training of schoolmasters and mistresses, the necessary means should also be afforded for the training of teachers of the Blind, to qualify them to impart either mental or industrial education. Such teachers to be furnished, after an examination, with certificates of competency.

27. That this Committee is of opinion that it is expedient that grants-in-aid should be given by the State towards the education and industrial training of the Blind; but that, as the question would embrace so large a field of inquiry, the Committee would urge upon the Council to use their influence with the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the whole subject of State Aid to the Blind.

28. That this Committee consider that the existing laws with reference to the Blind should be more effectually carried out, so as to place the Blind more nearly on a level with the sighted,—e.g., by facilitating their education in elementary public schools; by granting to all efficient schools, for each blind child in them, special aid after inspection, and in proportion to results; and by assisting systematically in the

maintenance of blind adults whilst they are being taught trades.

29. That it be suggested to the Institutions that they should invite Government inspection.

From the
Poor
Rates,

The powers already conferred on the Guardians of the Poor, under the Acts referred to in the Appendix, p. 57, are so large, that it is not so much further legislation that is required, as more frequent use of existing provisions.* Doubtless, in some instances, Guardians may be deterred, by the fear of incurring unnecessary expense, from sending the Blind under their charge to institutions specially established for either adults or children suffering under this infirmity, but, as a rule, they are now too enlightened to adopt such a shortsighted policy; and if satisfied as to the efficiency of the teaching to be afforded, and the consequent permanent advantages likely to accrue, would gladly avail themselves of any suitable opportunity that might offer for bestowing upon the necessitous Blind the requisite instruction, to enable them, at all events in some degree, to contribute towards their own maintenance, instead of remaining a permanent and heavy burden upon the rates.

From the
Educa-
tional
Grant.

Although, on the score of expense, objections might be raised to the establishment of a School intended solely for the instruction of Teachers for the Blind, these objections can hardly be made against the training of such teachers at ordinary Training Schools or other suitable Institutions already in existence. At present £100 is placed to the credit of each Training School for every master, and £70 for every mistress, who may have been trained in such School during two years, and become qualified to obtain the prescribed certificates; and in order to meet the object which the Committee has in view, the Government might be urged to give similar or even higher grants in the case of every master and mistress, wherever trained, who might be reported to have received a certificate of qualification to

* It may be observed that parish relief given on account of blind or deaf and dumb children apparently does not pauperise the parent or cause him to forfeit any privileges. See extract from 4 & 5 Will. IV. c. 76, in Appendix, p. 57.

impart instruction to the Blind as well as to ordinary pupils.

Institutions for the education of the Blind do not appear at present to be legally precluded from receiving the ordinary Government grants-in-aid, but the comparatively high standard of proficiency now required in order to admit of such payments being made may be to some extent a bar to the full participation of the Blind in the benefits enjoyed by the sighted. It is not unreasonable to suppose that, in consideration of the infirmity under which the Blind are suffering, the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education may, upon proper representation of the subject, be pleased to modify the prescribed standard of proficiency in their favour.

The provisions of the Industrial Schools Act would appear to apply to an Industrial School for the Blind equally as to one for the sighted ; but as this Act only bears reference to children found begging, wandering, and without home or proper guardianship, or whom a parent or guardian is unable to control, it is not probable, considering the small number of the Blind that are likely to come under these conditions, that the Act could, as regards this class of the community, ever be taken advantage of with any degree of success.

Industrial
Schools
Act.

As already pointed out, due legislative provision has been made towards enabling Guardians to obtain suitable training for the necessitous Blind, both children and adults ; and the question to be solved is, how to ensure the provisions of existing enactments being brought into beneficial operation. Possibly the best solution would be the grant of State Inspection. This inspection, which would be welcomed by many of the institutions for the benefit of the Blind, would, doubtless, lead to salutary reforms, and more especially to the introduction of a uniform system of education and training, whilst it would give to the Guardians of the Poor the confidence needed in order to induce them to avail themselves fully of the powers which are vested in them, for the purpose of enabling them to obtain both education and industrial training for all the Blind, whose welfare it is their duty to promote.

State In-
spection.

If it be proved that efficient means are available, should this duty be neglected, public opinion will sooner or later compel them to recognise their responsibility in this respect, and institutions for the industrial training of the Blind will no longer languish, for the want either of pupils or of pecuniary means.

Marriage
between
blind
persons.

The last Resolution passed by the Committee was as follows :—

30. That in consideration of the well-known suffering and misery which results from marriages between two blind persons, this Committee strongly recommends that such marriages be discouraged and prevented by all reasonable means, especially by the proper authorities providing entirely separate accommodation for the two sexes, in schools, workshops, and at all gatherings of blind persons under their control ; and by making a rule, that in case any blind person receiving the benefits of their institution or charity do, after having been duly warned, marry another blind person, both such persons shall forfeit the benefits of such institution or charity, unless it be otherwise decided by the Committee of an institution in exceptional cases.

The subject to which it relates—the separation of the sexes—is one upon which, apparently, much diversity of opinion at present exists ; for, although all those who have well considered the question concur in thinking that inter-marriages between persons suffering from the same affliction, and frequently also from other organic infirmity, cannot be too strongly deprecated, or too strictly guarded against, it is asserted, by some, that the occasional mingling of the sexes would not operate to any appreciable degree in bringing about this result, and that as regards the schoolroom, under suitable precautions, it has a beneficial effect upon both, in inducing a healthy spirit of emulation ; the sexes thus stimulating and (in the case of singing) supplementing each other's exertions, whilst in many instances it would materially lessen the cost of management, and the outlay on account of buildings.

From the foregoing *résumé* of the proceedings of the Committee, it will be perceived that the principal points to which their attention has been directed are :

I.—*The Training of the Infant Blind.*

This is a matter of vital importance to their future welfare: it cannot commence too early. If from the very moment that the child is able to crawl it is taught to make use of its limbs, it will acquire habits of self-confidence which must materially tend to fully develop its organs of hearing and feeling, and thus to compensate it to a certain extent for the terrible affliction under which it labours, and enable it to mingle with its sighted fellows on some degree of equality, and to start in the race of life, although sadly overweighted, yet not altogether disqualified from competing for a prize, or debarred from all hope of success. But these results can rarely be realised in later life, after years of neglect; the valuable time, once lost, cannot be regained. Hence the necessity for the earliest home instruction, and (where that is not available) for the admission of the infant Blind into special preparatory schools.

II.—*The Mental and Industrial Education of the Blind.*

Although special instruction and appliances are required for the thorough instruction of the Blind, yet—with the view of removing the feeling of nervousness and timidity which must necessarily prevail amongst any class, more especially amongst those who are so sensitive as the Blind, if kept apart and isolated from the rest of the community—it is advisable that, as far as practicable, they should be instructed during a portion of their time with the sighted. Due allowance, however, should be made for infirmity, and due attention paid to the necessity for invigorating their bodily frames, by inciting suitable muscular action, and also for encouraging them to acquire the most perfect use of their fingers, by engaging in work of various kinds needing delicate manipulation, so as to prepare them for the industrial training, which it is recommended should be of a most thorough character. Whether this training be obtained by them as pupils at special training establishments, or as apprentices at workshops in company with sighted work-

men, it is absolutely necessary that care should be taken, in the first instance, to ascertain the peculiar capabilities of each learner, so that, as far as possible, his application may be restricted to the work for which he displays special aptitude, and by which he is most likely to attain constant employment and good wages.

III.—*The Employment of the Trained Blind.*

The available field for the employment of the above class in ordinary trades is at present extremely limited. Even supposing that the hope expressed, that after suitable training many of the Blind may prove capable of taking a part in the work of ordinary manufacturing establishments, should be fully realised, an increase to the existing number of workshops specially devoted to the task of affording occupation to the Blind would still be a great desideratum; but it is evident that, in order to enable the founders and contributors to reap the full success their philanthropic efforts to raise the condition of this grievously afflicted class of the community so richly deserve, these workshops should be mainly conducted on commercial principles, being placed under the charge of experienced practical men, the labour of the employés being directed and supervised by highly efficient foremen, each employé being placed upon the work for the execution of which his manual dexterity and skill peculiarly fit him, and receiving remuneration according to the extent and value of the work performed, exclusive of any eleemosynary grant.

The list of occupations known to have been followed by the Blind, notwithstanding the serious difficulties with which they have had to contend, is a sufficient proof of their earnest desire to save themselves from the reproach of being considered a useless burden upon the sighted, and consequently of the powerful claims which all societies formed for the purpose of aiding them in this commendable object have upon the liberality of the wealthy and benevolent.

IV.—*The proper means of establishing a System of Co-operation and Intercommunication between the different Societies established for promoting the Welfare of the Blind.*

There can be little doubt that, with the design of enabling Institutions to detect concealment and fraud, and thus to distribute the funds at their disposal to the best advantage, it is desirable that they should have easy means of intercommunication.

This, probably, could best be obtained through the formation of a Central Council of Representatives. This Council being a permanent body, composed of gentlemen who have given the question of the social elevation of the Blind their earnest attention, and who have at their command the valuable statistics afforded by their office records, would be able to enter into full discussions upon all matters appertaining to this important subject; and would thus be in a position to bring to the notice of societies interested in the Blind, of the public and of the Government, with whom their representations would necessarily have great weight, all improvements and reforms, legislative or otherwise, which they might deem it their duty to advocate on behalf of those in whose cause they would be empowered to plead.

V.—*The Claim of the Blind for State Aid.*

As a general rule, it may be asserted that, in the interest of the body-politic, it is within the province of the State to aid its poorer and weaker subjects to become intelligent wealth-producers, adding to the national prosperity and the national strength, instead of remaining a national incumbrance, a burden both to themselves and others, dependent even for the means of subsistence upon public or private charity. If this obligation is recognised, in the case of those who, although poverty-stricken, are blessed with all their faculties, as shown by the grants to the elementary and other schools, how much more is it incumbent on the State to consider the case of those whose

helplessness is caused by one of the most distressing visitations by which humanity can be afflicted. The practice of most countries is in accordance with the course suggested.

Some modification of the Educational Code, and the application of provisions somewhat similar to those contained in the Industrial Schools Acts to establishments intended for the maintenance and industrial training of the Blind, with grants towards the support of the necessitous Blind whilst they are learning a trade, would in all probability meet the desired object, more particularly as, in many cases, a Government Grant would carry with it Government Inspection; and thus, from the attention of able and intelligent Inspectors being constantly directed to the improvement of the institutions under their supervision, many valuable suggestions would be offered, and valuable reforms inaugurated.

Con-
clusion.

The Committee cannot close their labours without regret, for they are well aware how far they have fallen short in carrying out the task imposed upon them, and how many points of interest may have escaped their observation; whilst some matters of importance, such as the question of type, have been deemed more suitable for separate consideration. But when it is remembered that there are upwards of 30,000 blind persons in the United Kingdom, and that of these there are scarcely 800 at work in industrial institutions, whilst there are believed to be nearly 10,000 of them able-bodied, and capable, if properly trained, and afforded the opportunity of obtaining employment, of contributing toward their own livelihood, and that thus, owing to their present state of inactivity, independently of the unmerited sufferings entailed upon a class who, from the affliction under which they labour, have a strong claim upon the compassion of the public, a serious loss is sustained by the nation, they earnestly trust that the observations which they now venture to offer may be deemed deserving of consideration, and of sufficient importance to induce the Council of the Charity Organisation Society to urge, both upon the Government and the community at large, the necessity for

inquiring fully into the subject of the treatment of the Blind, with the view of ameliorating their general condition, and enabling them—instead of remaining, as at present, isolated, and too often neglected—to take their share in the work of life, and to become active, useful, and happy members of society.

ORFEUR CAVENAGH.

Chairman.

January 26, 1876.

PROTESTS.

I.—We, the undersigned, after long experience in the education and training of the Blind, while cordially agreeing with many portions of the above Report and Resolutions, yet feel bound to protest against some of them in their present form;—specially against

Resolution 20 ;

as we are convinced that no scheme for the admission of Blind Apprentices into ordinary workshops is practicable in England ; and

Resolution 26 ;

where we entirely dissent from the idea of training Blind persons as teachers of the Blind.

(Signed)

F. FULLER.
W. HARRIS.
M. TURNER.
EDMUND C. JOHNSON.
B. G. JOHNS.
J. R. F. BURNETT.

II.—We also, the undersigned, further protest against

Resolution 12 ;

believing that admission into existing voting institutions works well for the various charities, and the general welfare of the Blind themselves.

(Signed)

EDMUND C. JOHNSON.
B. G. JOHNS.
J. R. F. BURNETT.
F. FULLER.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

METROPOLITAN AGENCIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
BLIND.

The following agencies have been established with the view of affording the means of education or of industrial training.*

The School for the Indigent Blind, which was founded in 1799, possesses considerable endowments, and has extensive buildings in St. George's Fields. The object of the institution is the moral, educational, and industrial training of blind children of both sexes. Children are not admitted under the age of ten, and are required to be able to feed and to wash and dress themselves. Mental and industrial training commence together. After the first year more time is given to the latter than to the former; and, after the fourth year, if fair progress has been made in the school-room, almost the whole time is devoted to industrial pursuits. The pupils are taught to manufacture basket-work, mats, cocoa-nut matting, hearthrugs, brushes, rope, sash-lines, and knitted and netted articles. If, after a fair trial, a child does not appear likely to become proficient in the industrial work selected, some other employment is found for him. Music is taught to those who have real talent for it, and with it pianoforte tuning; the time for commencing this tuition depending upon age and capability. There are both sighted and blind teachers. All the pupils receive a percentage upon the value of the articles they manufacture. A few have obtained employment in ordinary workshops. The number of inmates in July 1875 was 174, of whom about one-half came from the country. Admission

School for
the Indi-
gent Blind.

* For the addresses of these Societies, and some further particulars, see annexed Table, p. 42. The descriptions in this Appendix were drawn up from information furnished by the representatives of the Institutions referred to, to whom they have been subsequently submitted for correction.

is by election, and all pupils are received free of charge. The period of residence for each inmate is at least six years. At times all applicants can be admitted; but at others there are more applicants than vacancies.

The Committee of the School for the Indigent Blind have recently announced their intention of immediately establishing a branch school for younger pupils—probably from seven years of age, and have also made arrangements for greatly enlarging their workshops, so as to give employment to 50 adults.

Indigent
Blind
Visiting
Society.

The Indigent Blind Visiting Society was founded in 1834, 'to ameliorate the condition of the destitute Blind resident in London and its vicinity.' In the first instance it was simply intended to furnish the means of giving instruction and relief to the Blind at their own homes; subsequently educational classes were formed. 660 blind persons were under visitation during the year ending March 31, 1875, and 200 attended the educational classes. In these they are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and singing. Some of the pupils are as young as five years of age. The Blind are brought to the classes by guides, and a small sum is allowed to each as guide-money. Provision is made for teaching the children who act as guides. When an applicant for relief is admitted to the benefits of the Society, he or she is regularly visited, and as far as practicable assisted, some being started in business. The Visitors are themselves generally blind, and are accompanied by sighted guides.

London
Society for
Teaching
the Blind.

The London Society for Teaching the Blind to Read and for Training them in Industrial Occupations was founded in 1838. It has suitable buildings in Upper Avenue Road, Regent's Park, for lodging and educating 66 children, 36 boys and 30 girls. There were in July 1875, 57 inmates, 29 boys and 26 girls; of these 14 males and 10 females came from the country. There are also 7 day-scholars. As a rule inmates are of a grade superior to that of the indigent classes, the majority contributing towards their own support and education. Children are admitted at any age after eight by election for three years, at the expiration of which period

they are eligible for re-election, or on the annual payment of £15 or £20 according to circumstances. Mental education is commenced immediately upon admission, and the girls are at once taught to knit and sew. There is no fixed age for industrial training; but it generally commences when the pupils are fourteen years old. No such training is however given to the boys until they are reported by the schoolmaster to be able to read. The girls work at knitting and chair-caning, the boys principally at basket work. Formerly they also made brushes, but this was not found a profitable occupation, and consequently it has been discontinued. Children who show any talent for music are, in the first instance, taught in the junior department by an Assistant Music Master on the boys' side and an Assistant Music Teacher on the girls'—both blind. Afterwards, if they display sufficient capacity, they are transferred to the charge of a duly qualified professor. They are taught by note; instructors—chiefly lady amateurs—reading the notes to them. There is a large Herculean and also a smaller press attached to the establishment, for printing books and other publications in Lucas's type. These are worked by blind pupils; but the type being different from that ordinarily used, they are not likely to be able to find employment at general printing establishments. There are both seeing and blind teachers, but the latter preponderate.

The Home Teaching Society was founded in 1855, for the purpose of supplying teachers and books in Moon's type to enable the Blind to learn at their own homes to read the Scriptures. In the year ending March 31, 1875, there were 1,116 blind persons under instruction in the metropolis. No temporal relief is given; but the teachers are encouraged to interest themselves in the moral and spiritual elevation of those whom they visit. The books, including the Bible and a large number of other books printed by Dr. Moon, are lent gratuitously, and there is no charge made for the services of any of the teachers. The Society has co-operated with the London School Board to promote the more systematic and regular attendance of blind children at ordinary sighted schools. 37 children have been recently reported

Home
Teaching
Society
(Moon's
Type).

as attending day-schools, 22 at those of the London School Board, and the remainder at ordinary schools.* The Society now employs 16 teachers, of whom 13 are blind, and two of the number are specially employed throughout the country aiding in the formation of branch associations. In visiting their pupils the blind teachers are accompanied by guides, who can inform them as to the state of the homes. Children as young as three, and several under eight years, are under instruction, while many aged persons, some as old as eighty years, are visited and receive lessons from the Society's agents in reading the embossed type. There are now 53 Home-teaching Societies in various parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, each having a library, and they employ in the aggregate about 54 teachers in addition to those employed by the London Office. Many of these have been founded by the central Society, but when once established and under the guidance of a local committee, they have separate funds from the Parent Society. The Society in London keeps distinctly to the objects specified above; but several of the country societies, being the only agencies in their districts for the welfare of the Blind, have extended the basis of their operations so far as to give industrial employment and relief in deserving cases.

Association for
Promoting
General
Welfare.

The Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind was founded by Miss Gilbert in 1856, having grown out of a private undertaking set on foot by that lady in 1854. It possesses workshops and a retail shop in the Euston-road, and a retail shop in Oxford-street. It has three principal modes of operation: furnishing trained workers with employment, both at their own homes, and at the workshops; teaching and training blind persons who are ineligible from age for ordinary schools for the Blind in industrial occupations; and granting pensions and occasional gifts to those unable to work.

* Since the Committee commenced its meetings, the London School Board, at the suggestion of the Home Teaching Society, has appointed a special teacher, himself blind, to pay periodical visits to the Board Schools at which there are blind children in attendance, and give the necessary technical instruction.

Applicants for industrial training are elected for three years; if women, at and after seventeen years of age, if men, at and after twenty.* During this period men receive an allowance of 13s., and women from 7s. to 9s. per week for board and lodging. In the course of the first year a further charge of about 4s. a week is incurred for tuition and raw material supplied to learners; but in the second there is seldom any loss upon their work, and in the third year the value of their labour is believed to repay the annual outlay on their account, exclusive of the expenses of management. About three-fifths of the men are ultimately able to earn 15s. per week, the highest wages which the Association can at present afford to pay in the workshops. Basket makers can earn at home from 10s. to 25s. a week. The Institution takes the risk of disposing of the goods and foregoes the profit which, under ordinary circumstances, a retail trader would require in order to meet the rent and expenses of his establishment. At the expiration of the three years' training there must be a second election, to enable candidates to be placed on the list of trained workers. Hitherto blind teachers have instructed the learners, and all work together, principally at basket, brush-making and chair-caning; they also make mats and chop and bind firewood; and a very few specially skilful workmen are put to carpentering, turning, and cabinet-making. In July 1875 two men and one woman were under training; 26 men and 9 women were employed in the workshops, and 21 men and women received work at their own homes. There were 23 pensioners, and 14 receiving weekly allowances, and many others who were occasionally employed and assisted; many blind persons also attended the evening classes supported by the Institution. Several blind agents in country districts sell goods made by the Blind, a few of whom earn their living and keep shops. The Committee are now largely reducing the expenses of management, and are about to give up the premises in Oxford Street and the Euston Road, and concentrate the work of the Association at 28 Berners Street, Oxford Street.

* The list of candidates is submitted to the Committee for approval. One-half of those elected are chosen by subscribers, and one-half nominated by the Committee and by Miss Gilbert.

Surrey As-
sociation.

The Surrey Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, founded in 1857, was originally formed in connection with the Home Teaching Society for the purpose of instructing the Blind in reading, but it was subsequently thought advisable to introduce industrial training. Nine blind persons were receiving employment in July, 1875, at wages varying from 12*s.* to 6*s.* each per week. The occupations followed are basket-making, brush-making, and wood-cutting; of which wood-cutting is found the most profitable.

Alexandra
Institu-
tion.

The Alexandra Institution,* founded in 1863 by the late Mr. Edward Moore, gives industrial training and employment, disposes of work done by the Blind at their own homes, and provides an industrial home for the adult Blind on payment for board. The Home (6 Queen-square, Bloomsbury) is capable of accommodating 60 persons; but, owing to deficiency of funds, there were only 21 inmates (7 men and 14 women) in July 1875. There were at the same time 10 out-workers. No one is admitted to the Institution who is not prepared to undergo industrial training, and does not agree to remain six months. The weekly charge for each inmate at the Home is 12*s.* Nine-tenths of the learners come up from the country, and return thither after training; their attention is therefore generally turned to the manufacture of articles for which there is likely to be a local demand, such as baskets and brushes. After the first six months of training each man receives 2*s.* 6*d.* per week as wages. This sum is increased by 2*s.* 6*d.* every six months, so that at the end of two years it reaches 10*s.* Women receive somewhat less, the highest rate for them being only 7*s.* There is no fixed period for training, and, unless dismissed for misconduct, workers are permitted to remain until they are considered to be able to earn their own livelihood. Very few cases of utter inefficiency are known. The teachers are sighted. The men are taught basket-making, brush-making, and chair-caning; the women, brush-making, knitting, netting, and sewing by the aid of machines. Candidates are selected by the committee with reference to the urgency of their claims.

* See note, page 6.

The South London Association for Assisting the Blind was also founded in 1863, and was formerly known as the British Association. Its operations are almost entirely confined at present to arranging classes at which the Blind are 'taught to read, by a competent blind teacher, in whatever system of embossed type the reader may prefer.' Guide money is paid to the Blind attending. When the funds of the Association permit of it, loans are advanced and relief in other forms is given.

South
London
Associa-
tion.

The Association for Establishing Workshops for the Blind was founded in 1866. The Association has not published any report for some years, but has workshops for the Blind in Bishopsgate Avenue, Camomile Street, which have for some time been carried on chiefly at the expense of Mr. Henry Kingscote. These workshops were established for the purpose of giving employment both to the trained and untrained. In July 1875 about 12 persons were employed in them, but only during a portion of the week. Those employed are occupied solely in making sacks, this occupation having been found to yield the best returns, both as entailing least loss of material in the instruction of beginners, and also as enabling the Blind to acquire, in a short time, sufficient skill to admit of their earning something towards their own livelihood. Sighted supervision is needed for the cutting out of the sacks. A fair worker can make 30 to 50 rice or coffee bags per diem, for which a comparatively small price is paid, the workers realising from 10*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* per day; but at four-bushel and provender sacks, if sufficient work could be got of these descriptions to keep them employed all the week round, several of the quickest hands would earn from 10*s.* to 12*s.* per week.

Associa-
tion for
Establish-
ing Work-
shops.

The Royal Normal College and Academy of Music was founded in 1872. It is situated in Westow Street, Upper Norwood, near the Crystal Palace. The object of the Institution is 'to afford a thorough general and musical education to the youthful Blind of both sexes, so as to qualify them for self-maintenance,' more especially as skilled organists, pianists, teachers, and tuners. The College is a charitable institution, especially designed to benefit the

Royal
Normal
College
and
Academy
of Music.

Blind who are unable to provide for their own education. It is open, however, to the young of every class, but only those are received as pupils who, in the opinion of the Principal, show sufficient ability to make it probable that, by instruction, they can be rendered capable of self-support. Candidates are received at first as probationers. Many of the pupils are nominated and paid for by local committees, which have been formed in Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, and other large cities. Pupils are admitted between the ages of seven and twenty-one, and, at the discretion of the Committee, at a later age. In July 1875 there were 56 inmates, of whom the majority were from the country, and accommodation will shortly be provided for about fifty additional pupils. The College embraces three departments: 1. General Education; 2. The Science and Practice of Music; 3. Pianoforte tuning. Both blind and sighted masters and teachers are employed. Although it is early to look for practical results from the Institution, several pupils who have completed their course, and obtained the certificates of the college, have already commenced to earn, in different parts of the country, from 12s. to 30s. a week, with a prospect of shortly obtaining a considerable increase.

British and
Foreign
Blind As-
sociation.

The British and Foreign Blind Association differs from the above-mentioned Institutions, in seeking to improve education and educational appliances rather than to educate individuals.

It was formed in 1869 for the purpose of promoting the education and employment of the Blind, by ascertaining what has been done in these respects in this and other countries, by endeavouring to supply deficiencies where these are found to exist, and by attempting to bring about greater harmony of action between the different existing schools and institutions. The founders of the Association took as an axiom, that in all questions which relate to obtaining impressions by touch, the blind are the best judges; the Council of the Association therefore consists entirely of gentlemen who are either blind or so nearly so that they have to use the finger instead of the eye for the purpose of

reading. The Association produces and supplies educational apparatus to the blind and blind institutions, and employs a small number of blind persons in stereotyping, printing, and writing works in the Braille character, which have not sufficient circulation to make it worth while to print them.

Besides these educational and industrial agencies there are a number of pension funds in London for the Blind, particulars of which will be found in Table I., p. 40. It will be seen that the benefits obtainable from most of these funds are not confined to residents in London.

The Christian Blind Relief Society, though primarily a pension society, pays some attention to the educational requirements of the blind persons with whom it comes in contact, providing them with books on Moon's system of raised type, and, as its name appears to indicate that some religious qualification is expected, it may be mentioned that its object is 'to relieve the needy Blind of good moral character, independently of any religious qualification whatever,' inquiries regarding the several candidates being made by the Committee previous to their admission to its benefits.

Pension
Funds.

Christian
Blind
Relief
Society.

TABLE I.—PENSION-FUNDS FOR THE BLIND IN LONDON.

Name of Charity	When Founded	Address	No. of Persons benefited	Amount expended in Pensions	Conditions
Clothworkers' Company:					
West's Gift.	1718	The Hall, 41 Mincing Lane, E.C.	331	£ 1,655	50 years of age, 3 years blind, West's kin, or natives of City of London, Richmond, and certain other places.
Newnams' Gift.	1810	"	30	300	50 years of age, 3 years blind.
Thwayte's Gift.	1835	"	72	720	"
Acton's Gift.	1837	"	4	40	"
Gregory's Gift.	1845	"	1	4	"
Cornell's Gift.	1850	"	1	10	One of two most aged blind pensioners of the Company.
Love's Gift.	1858	"	1	10	50 years of age, 3 years blind, 'Citizens' of London.
Hetherington's Charity	1774	Christ's Hospital, Newgate St., E.C.	697	6,970	Open. Resident in England; 61 years of age, 3 years totally blind; having been in a better situation of life, but not having £20 a year of assured income, and never having had parish relief.
Hamston's Charity	1777	Vestry Office, St. Botolph, Aldgate, E.C.	5	59	Blind persons belonging to and not receiving alms from the parish of St. Botolph, Aldgate, Middlesex, St. Botolph, Aldgate, London, St. John of Wapping, and St. Paul, Shadwell. Preference to lightermen or watermen, their widows and children, parishioners of such parishes, or whose parents were parishioners.
Drapers' Company:					
Grainger's Gift.	1784	The Hall, 27 Throgmorton Street, E.C.	14	140	

Cordwainers' Company: Came's Gift	1796	The Hall, 7 Cannon Street, E.C.	110	550	Resident within 100 miles of London. Men over 45 years of age, married women over 40, widows or maidens over 30, never having had parish relief or begged in the streets. Usually given to oldest on list of Came's Pensioners.
Love's Gift	1859	" "	1	7 19 6	Usually given to oldest pensioner in age in addition to other pension.
Woolnough's Gift	1863	" "	1	3 6 0	Preference to old pupils.
School for the Indigent Blind	1799	St. George's Field's, S.E.	10	50	Born in England; 61 years of age, 3 years blind, 3 years in their present place of residence, never having had parish relief or been a beggar. No income for life above £10.
Painters' Company	1800	9 Little Trinity Lane, E.C.	174	1,740	
Goldsmiths' Company:					
General Corporate Fund, including Farmer's Charity (1813)	1875	The Hall, Foster Lane, E.C.	30	600	Resident in metropolitan counties.
Cureton's Charity	1858	" "	8	160	Preference to freemen.
Society for the Relief of Indigent Blind Jews	1819	27 Duke Street, Aldgate, E.C.	49	1,000	Resident in United Kingdom.
Indigent Blind Visiting Society	1834	27 Red-Lion Square, W.C.	55	363	Resident in London and its vicinity.
Blind Man's Friend, or Day's Charity	1836	34 Savile Row, W.	240	3,653	Resident in England, Wales, or Scotland; 21 years of age.
Governesses' Benevolent Institution	1836	32 Sackville Street, W.	3	97	Resident in United Kingdom; governesses.
Christian Blind Relief Society	1843	59 Burdett Road, E.	62	242	Resident in England, Wales, or Scotland; 18 years of age; good moral character.
Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind	1856	125 Euston Road, N.W., now re-moved to 28 Berners Street.	37*	480*	Total or partial inability to work, and good character. Not limited to British subjects.
Society for Granting Annuities to the Poor Adult Blind	1859	4 Eaton Place, S.W.	16	96	Resident in United Kingdom; not under 30 years of age.
Protestant Blind Pension Society	1863	3 Bartholomew Lane, E.C.	180	801	Resident in United Kingdom.
Blind Female Annuity Society	1875	68 Loudoun Road, N.W.	.	.	Widow or Spinster.

* Average 1875—viz., 25 annual Pensions, including £60 to widow of the late Mr. Hanks Levy; 12 weekly allowances.

TABLE II.—INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CHARITIES FOR THE BLIND IN LONDON.

Name of Charity	When Founded	Address	No. of Persons benefited 1874	Income 1874 excluding Sales	Remarks
School for the Indigent Blind	1799	St. George's Fields, S.E.	185	5,556	* Including legacy of £100,
Indigent Blind Visiting Society	1834	27 Red Lion Square, W.C.	820	3,091*	
London Society for Teaching the Blind	1838	Upper Avenue Road, N.W.	78	1,892	
Home Teaching Soc. for the Blind (Moon's Type)	1855	34 New Bridge Street, E.C.	1,116	1,350	
Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind	1856	{ 125 Euston Road (now removed) to 28 Berners Street }	136	2,454*	* Including legacies of £1,100.
Surrey Association for the General Welfare of the Blind	1857	3 Albion Place, Peckham, S.E.	9	154	
South London Association for Assisting the Blind	1863	38A Doddington Grove, Kennington, S.E.	60	81	
Alexandra Institution for the Blind	1865	6 Queen Square, W.C.	26	2,556	
Association for Establishing Workshops	1866	Bishopsgate Avenue, E.C.	11		
British and Foreign Blind Association	1869	33 Cambridge Square	See p.	45	
British for Blind Children					
Home (formerly at Newtown, Worcester)	1869	8 Springfield Villa, Goldsmith's Place, Kilburn, N.W.	11	305	
Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind	1873	Westow Street, Upper Norwood, S.E.	59	4,291*	{ * Including payments for special pupils and earnings in Tuning Department.

APPENDIX II.

SUGGESTIONS TO THE PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF BLIND CHILDREN.

1. Do not give way to despondency on account of a child being blind. From a very early age blind children can be taught to do much for themselves. They should be taught to feed themselves neatly—first with a spoon, then with a fork, and then with knife and fork. Lay salt at their left hand, bread on their right. Teach them to move the feet properly in walking. Make them rise early with the rest of the family and take meals regularly with others, and treat them as much as possible like children of the same age who are not blind. Habits of neatness and method are most important, that they may know where to find their things; habits of cleanliness should also be specially inculcated.

Early
Training.

2. Be cheerful with blind children, and talk to them as if they could see. Encourage them to use ordinary toys—not excepting pocket-knives—to handle things of all kinds, and to make inquiries about them.

Call out
their
powers.

3. Blind children should not be kept at home simply on account of their infirmity; it is much better for them to be sent to some school. Their education should commence as early as that of children who can see; they can learn everything which can be taught by conversation and by handling objects as well as those who have sight. They can take part at schools in the exercises in spelling, mental arithmetic, geography, singing, &c.—indeed in everything that does not require reading. No slight benefit is derived from associating with other children, and from learning in school habits of attention and obedience. The very worst thing which can befall a blind child in regard to its education is to be allowed to sit at home in a corner and do nothing but talk and rock itself.

Send them
to school.

4. It is not a very difficult matter for parents and friends of blind children to teach them the elements of their education. The following are some of the things which may be learnt successfully at their own homes:—

Education.

- (a) The alphabet in raised letters.
- (b) To spell short words.
- (c) The meaning and use of common words.
- (d) To count, to add and subtract small numbers.
- (e) The multiplication table and the multiplication and division of small numbers.

- (f) Items of general information. [Blind children of six or seven years of age should know the points of the compass, the name of the town, county, and country in which they live; the name of the Sovereign, and other facts of the kind.]
- (g) Facts in geography and history, especially of their own country, may be added as they can be understood.
- (h) Singing common-tunes and playing some simple instrument.
- (i) Hymns, verses of Scripture (*e.g.* the maxims contained in the Book of Proverbs), and short passages of prose or poetry which they can understand, should be committed to memory.

Importance of self-reliance,

5. The foundation of habits of self-dependence may be laid at home. It is a most important branch of the education of the blind to be taught to do all they possibly can for themselves. To this end they should be encouraged to become acquainted with all the parts of their own home and neighbourhood, to go little errands and to find things for themselves. If they drop or lose things do not at once pick them up or seek for them. Do not be too much afraid of their falling over or knocking against things; such little mishaps often prove very good teachers. It should, however, be remembered that half-open doors are specially dangerous. They should be taught to dress themselves, including the lacing of their shoes or boots, stays, &c., and the tying of all neckerchiefs, ties, strings, &c. blacking their boots and shoes, and in the case of girls, dressing their hair. Boys as well as girls should be taught to sew and knit.

and of exercise.

6. It will be found that blind children often acquire awkward habits, shown in various motions of the head, hands, or body. Bodily activity will tend to prevent such habits being formed;* still they should be closely watched and guarded against, and it will be no unkindness to check them somewhat sharply when necessary. It is almost an impossibility to eradicate them after they have been indulged in for a few years, and in later life they have a very prejudicial effect. Blind children are often weakly; regular open-air exercise is therefore very necessary for them.

Need of encouragement.

7. Do not remind the blind of their misfortune by useless expressions of pity; rather encourage them by information about the various kinds of work of which blind persons have shown them-

* Chest expanders, dumb-bells, &c., may be found of use for this purpose.

selves capable. Speak to them as you would to other persons : for example, do not hesitate to say, 'Have you *seen* so and so?' It is very important that no deceit should be used towards them, as this renders them suspicious.

Those desirous of obtaining full information as to the training of blind children will do well to read a little book by J. G. Knie on the Management and Education of the Blind (a translation of which, by the Rev. W. Taylor, was published in 1861 by Simpkin and Marshall); also 'Lessons on Objects, cash price 2s. 11d., published by Seeley and to be had (with other books of a similar character,) at the Depository of the Home and Colonial School Society, 346, Gray's Inn Road, where persons can see object lessons, on the Kindergarten system, given to classes of seeing children.

Messrs. Deighton, Worcester, have recently published a new edition of Knie's Management and Education of the Blind, price 1s. 6d.

APPENDIX III.—OCCUPATIONS ACTUALLY FOLLOWED BY THE BLIND, OR WHICH IT IS THOUGHT MAY PROVE SUITABLE FOR THEM.

The employments enumerated in the following Table are grouped according to the order adopted in the Census Report, 1871, Vol. III. p. lxxxiii. thus :—
SERIES.—I. PROFESSIONAL. II. DOMESTIC. III. COMMERCIAL. IV. AGRICULTURAL. V. INDUSTRIAL. VI. INDEFINITE AND NON-PRODUCTIVE.
 Note.—Column A refers to occupations known to be followed by Blind persons in London; B refers to other occupations known to be followed by Blind persons elsewhere. The occupations marked by an asterisk seem to the Committee best suited for the Blind.

Class	A	B	Class	A	B
I. PROFESSIONAL.	Solicitors. Engravers. Or- ganists, &c. *Musicians: Tuners, Or- ganists, &c. *Teachers of Blind. Teachers in ordinary school. *Teachers of Singing, Music, and Tuning. Architects. Herbalists. Agents for Life and Fire Insurance. *Scripture Readers.	Clergymen. Surgeons. Scientific persons. Authors. Land and House Agents.	V. INDUSTRIAL.	Printers. *Newspaper Sellers. Musical Instrument Makers. Musical Instrument Dealers. Vacuumers. Carpenters. Joiners. Chair Casers. Hard-dashers. Tailors. Shoemakers. Upholsterers. Stick Makers. *Mat Makers. Sack and Bag Makers. Flahmongers. The Dealers. Brush and Broom Makers. French Polishers. Packing Case Makers. Cork Cutters. *Basket Makers. *Firewood Choppers. Chandlery Shopkeepers. Oilmen. Boot Tree Sellers. Knitting Machinists. Bag Sellers and Collectors. Toy and Puzzle Makers. Bakers. Sugar Bakers. Fishermen. Dressmakers, &c. *Grochet Workers. Telegraphists. Fancy Hair Workers. *Knitting and Netting. Bookbinders. Church Decorators. Ladder & Wheelbarrow Mks. Wd. & Ivory Carve & Polishers. Artificial Flower Makers. Sawyers (under-man in pit). Sawyers (under-man in pit). Sawyers (under-man in pit).	Mattresses. Makers in horse hair, sea grass, wool, hock, and straw. Rope and Cord Makers. Wireworkers. Hat Braiders. Makers of— *Wash Line, *Twines, *Sulph. Fenders, Rugs, Shawls and Vells, *Jaco. Headwork, Purses, *Wadagnards, *Artificers, *Rope Envelopes, *Matted Boxes, *Rug-carpet, *Hassock Counterpanes, Doll's Clothing, Riddles, Sack Cloth, Whisks, Soap Boxes, Knife Boxes, Horseman's Boxes, Garden Chairs and Tables.
II. DOMESTIC.	Keepers of Hotels and Lodging-houses (with aid of relatives). Laundry assistants. Servants.	Partners in firms (Manu- facturing and Commer- cial). *Agents for Institutions, Book Societies, &c.			
III. COMMERCIAL.	Commercial Travellers. Coal dealers. Undertakers. Shopkeepers. *Hawkers, Pedlars. *Costermongers. *Assistant Carmen. Messengers.	Market Gardeners. Cattle Dealers. Chaff Cutters.			
IV. AGRICULTURAL.	Market Gardeners. Cattle Dealers. Chaff Cutters.	Poultry Dealers.			
V. INDUSTRIAL.	Labourers. Porters. *Wheel Turners in various occupations. *Bell Ringers. *Bellows. Blowers for	Pumpers in Mines.			

APPENDIX IV.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE FIRST EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND, TRANSLATED BY MAJOR-GENERAL BAINBRIGGE, R.E.

'ON THE PRACTICAL RESULTS OF THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND,' BY HERR MOLDENHAWER.

ADDRESS ON PREPARATORY SCHOOLS, BY HERR RIEMER.

ADDRESS ON THE 'TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF THE BLIND, AND THE ASSISTANCE OF THOSE WORKING INDEPENDENTLY AFTER LEAVING AN INSTITUTION,' BY HERR REINHARD.

THE FIRST EUROPEAN CONGRESS of 'Teachers of the Blind' from all countries, at which eighty-four were present, was held at Vienna, 3rd to 8th August, 1873.

Their Report states that Great Britain was represented only by Mr. A. Buckle, Superintendent of the Wilberforce School for the Blind at York, and Mr. Martin, Superintendent of the Edinburgh Institution.

The former has written an epitome of it, which is printed in the Annual Report of the Yorkshire school for 1874, in which are extracts from papers read by Herr Moldenhawer, Superintendent of the Institution at Copenhagen, and Herr Riemer, Superintendent of the Preparatory School for the Blind at Hubertusburg, in Saxony, on the Need of such a School; from one by Herr Pablasek, Director of the Imperial Institution for Educating the Blind at Vienna, on Musical Education; from one by Dr. Reinhard, Director of the Royal Dresden Blind Institute, on Training after leaving School; and likewise from two papers on a Common Type. There is also an address from Mr. Willhartitz, of St. Louis, Missouri, on the Education of the Blind in America, accompanying this report.

Another Congress is to be held at Dresden in 1876.

The following papers* were read, but not confirmed by votes.

1. *On the Practical results of the Education of the Blind.*

By HERR MOLDENHAWER.

All are agreed that the Blind should, as far as possible, be brought up and dealt with according to the system which is most suitable for the seeing, and that we should only depart from this where blindness requires special care and help; but unfortunately this idea is seldom carried out.

* These papers have been abridged in translation.

Whilst it is considered desirable that the education of seeing children should begin when they are six or seven years old, that of blind children seldom begins before they are nine or ten, and often older.

We all know how little parents generally understand how to employ their blind children in a useful manner, and to what extent they break through the most important rules of education from mistaken love, anxiety, and indecision. Thus the poor blind child's spirit is embittered at home, and he is brought to some institution eventually in a most neglected condition.

Printed instructions and the visits of teachers have not hitherto proved sufficiently effective to prevent this evil.

A few years ago, therefore, Dr. Georgi established at Hubertusburg, a Preparatory School for little blind children, from which the Blind Institution at Dresden receives pupils well prepared, and a similar school has been established at Copenhagen by the Society called 'Die Kette,' or the Chain.

If blind children are not fit for schools, it is for want of proper management. How can they be prepared without care or teaching? Is it not with the blind children as it is with fruit, which will not ripen in a cold cellar?

The time given to the education of blind children is insufficient being generally only four to seven years, including technical training; whilst sighted children are kept six years at school, and afterwards apprenticed for five years.

The Blind are thus obliged to begin to work on their own account at seventeen or eighteen years of age; and it is a wonder that so many succeed. It is an advantage for the Blind to learn to work early, and to combine it with other kinds of education, but it is an evil that their technical education is not prolonged. It would be best if the latter were so managed that a transition could be effected from the habit of relying on the direction of others, acquired in institutions, to the greater self-dependence necessary in the world outside.

Such a transition, however, can certainly not be effected in Blind Schools, for in them the male Blind easily (leicht) become spiritless, and the female Blind look upon them as a permanent shelter.

Since it is so difficult to secure for Blind women a self-supporting position in life, I wish that all such institutions for resident Blind were exclusively devoted to the reception of blind girls, as in that established in Copenhagen by the society called 'Die Kette.'

As regards the male Blind, I think we should most nearly attain

our object by establishing workshops in which the Blind would work under the direction of sighted overseers, each receiving the wages they earn, so that they would learn to work for their bread.

In order to provide for the physical and moral well-being of these young men, they should live in such workmen's dwellings as are generally occupied by the Blind, being let at a low rate; and, whatever advantages may be granted to them, we must keep this principle constantly in view, viz. that we accustom them to constant responsibility and self-dependence, which the Blind especially need.

If such a shop were established in a large town it would afford to the Blind who live there the advantage of having a place where they could get work constantly, and where they could work under far more favourable conditions as regards the quality and profit of their labour.

There has been, since 1862, an Institution at Copenhagen, in connection with the Royal Blind Institution, called the 'Association for Promoting the Self-dependence of the Blind,' which helps the Blind at their homes to support themselves, and has established a shop for the sale of articles made by the Blind, and also lately a workshop for basket-makers, brush-makers, and mat-makers. They work eleven hours daily under an overseer; they are admitted without a fee; the materials are supplied to them at cost price; and the work done by them is paid for weekly. The workmen have to provide their own board and lodging. The Blind living in the country and in any part of the city can also procure materials from the workshop. In this way it is intended to provide work for pupils on leaving the Blind School, as this plan has been found to be of great practical use.

Whilst the Copenhagen Association, in helping the Blind to work at home, has chiefly regarded the experience of the Saxons, who (first under Dr. Georgi, and now under Dr. Reinhard) have established the 'Fund for the Help of Pupils leaving the Dresden School,' and thus paved the way for so many Blind to earn their own living, they have also had before them as guides (Wegweiser) the 'Edinburgh Institution' and the 'Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind,' both of which have such workshops in operation.

There is, however, one important difference between ours and theirs, for the British shops are manufactories where division of labour is the chief feature, whilst we oblige each workman to do the whole of the different parts of the work required for each article, so that he can afterwards begin and complete his work alone.

We do not wish to make our blind people only 'factory-hands,' but we must recollect that in Great Britain they employ not only

those who have been trained, but also those who are untrained, and that it is therefore necessary to put many of them at such work as they can, as soon as possible, earn wages for executing, viz. a simple part of the work only.

The want of some kind of workshop is certainly one of the chief causes of the general misery of the condition of the Blind where none have yet been established, therefore we ought to take care that in every place where there is a school for the Blind due assistance is provided for getting work after they have learnt a trade.

The chief wants of the Blind appear to be these:—

1st. Education for blind children from six to ten years old, which might be carried on in the lower classes of the Blind Schools; but these are insufficient even to teach those above the age of ten; and all agree that the younger children require quite a different treatment from the latter, and should be educated separately.

2nd. The establishment of transition workshops for those who have received a technical education, in which they would be like apprentices, except that the master would not have as much interest as masters generally have in the work of their apprentices.

3rd. Assistance for those working independently, who are generally dependent on a middle man or master; for though help is given to the sighted to get work, the Blind are generally neglected.

The President, Dr. Frankl, remarked that some of these wants had been provided for in the Institution for Blind Jews, near Vienna, where the pupils received the ordinary education for eight years, and then continued for four years like apprentices, learning a trade and strengthening their minds; whilst there is also a fund in connection with it for helping those working at home, by providing them with tools, clothing, &c. He asked if anyone would make any remarks on this subject; but none did so at any length.

Herr Büttner remarked that he found in most institutions which he had seen a want of a definite aim in the teaching, and wished that, instead of there being only clergy, merchants, or business-men on the Committees of Management, there were also tradesmen who understood technical work. He considered it best to give help to the Blind at home 'materially and morally,' as was done in Saxony.

After hearing Herr Pablasek's address on Musical Education in Blind Schools, Director Reinhard, from the Dresden School, stated that the pupils of that school had not generally succeeded well with

music, and that they gave the industrial teaching the first place, the literary instruction the second place, and musical instruction the third place in the education of the Blind. He said 'special attention is given to singing, our choir of twenty-four blind people is very good, and the pupils take an interest in music; but, gentlemen, if I lay my hand on my heart, I must admit that the Blind who rely on musical powers for support generally fail, whilst blind operatives obtain good results from their work. I invite you, gentlemen, to come to Saxony and convince yourselves as to the success of our independent operatives, who will be found there to the number of 300.'

Herr Büttner said that wandering musicians were often ruined both physically and morally, and 'that it is only when the honourable principle of abhorrence of alms is implanted in their minds that the Blind can avoid ruin.'

2. *Address on Preparatory Schools.*

Herr Riemer pointed out that, even among those families which are not very poor, blind children often grow up without learning to wash or feed themselves, with hands hanging soft and helpless at their sides, and thus become more incapable than the poorest, who are forced to exert themselves by the necessity of the case.

If they are not taught to help themselves at home it is very difficult to teach them at school, and as the existing Blind Institutions cannot admit young children without injuring the education of older ones, they ought to be taught in Preparatory Schools or Kindergärten separately, which should be established by the State.

In the Preparatory School at Hubertusburg, in Saxony, the first thing aimed at is the strengthening of the limbs, then to make the children use them properly, to make them help themselves instead of relying on others, to correct their bad habits, and to improve their mental condition, arousing in their minds the love of God and of truth, as well as conscience. All this must be done methodically, and each lesson must be given separately and repeatedly, as well as most patiently. The change wrought thus is wonderful if the teachers are experienced.

They must be encouraged to move about as directed, and the 'Fröbel play and exercises' will be found useful. Plaiting with strips of leather and other occupations which combine play with work are carried on with advantage. A good manager of Kindergärten can do them great good, and gymnastics give them the power

of controlling their limbs ; but every exercise must be first taught singly.

Object-lessons must be given by means of models, stuffed animals, birds, fish, &c., to bring out the powers of memory and reason. Simple hymns and ballads are practised.

Very little technical work can be taught, except making rush baskets &c., as the children are all under ten. This school has been carried on for eleven years, and the benefits of teaching blind children so early are plainly seen by all who watch the progress which they make when removed to the Blind Institution, in which more room is found, in their place, for older pupils since this school has been established, and the former get through the Institution and are fit for independent work at an age three years less than the average of those who do not go through it.

As these children pass through the Institution more rapidly, there is also more room for those who become blind as adults.

3. *Address by Herr Reinhard, Director of the National Blind Institution at Dresden, on the ' Technical Education of the Blind and the assistance of those working independently after leaving the Institution.'*

The Saxon Blind Institution is organised so that the working school forms an essential part of it, and when children enter it consideration is at once given, not only to their physical, religious, and intellectual education, but also to their instruction in work. Whilst between the ages of six and eleven they remain in the preparatory school, and find inexhaustible occupation in Fröbel's system of play and exercises.

' Play-work ' is given to them as they become fit for it ; for the feeling that they can make something useful rejoices the little workers and excites their activity, whilst it is important that they should learn early to aim at real work. They learn to plait reed-mats, which is an excellent means of strengthening the muscles the arm and hand, and they also make little rush baskets.

The range of their work is extended when they are transferred to the higher class, which is usually during their eleventh year ; and from that time till their confirmation, which is generally at the end of their fourteenth year, they have at least three hours' work every day in the shops.

I will here describe the work chiefly taught at the Dresden Institution. That of blind girls is, unfortunately, much restricted, and I cannot satisfy myself that learning to make baskets and rope

is without risk of injury to the constitution of girls. Besides, we must not lose sight of the evils arising from their working with male overseers and workmen. Hence, girls learn in general only knitting, plaiting counterpanes, chair-caning, hair-working, and sewing—as much as is required for mending their linen.

Hair-work has already been adopted in another Institution, and is the most profitable work for blind girls, as a clever one can earn 7 to 8 groschen a day by it, whilst the quickest knitter can scarcely make $2\frac{1}{2}$ groschen a day.

Crochet, which I also teach, I place in the second rank, as I do not consider it of much consequence, except as increasing the handiness of the girls and giving a beneficial variety to their work.

The blind boys learn either basket-making or rope-making; they learn in the rope factory various kinds of light work, and, when they have been confirmed, choose for themselves between these two trades, their muscles having been strengthened by being alternately employed at both.

It is important to consider the grounds of fitness for these trades. Rope-making requires strength and health of body, for much of the work must be carried on in places exposed to the weather; and besides this it requires a great deal of dexterity, which is not indispensable in basket-making. It is also of great importance that each should learn the trade in which he is most likely to succeed after leaving the Institution, for the great object is that the pupils should be fitted for independent work eventually.

All those who understand the subject 'are now convinced that the Blind cannot be really helped by building asylums.' If there were three times as many asylums as there are schools there would not be room for all, and the inmates would never be satisfied with their condition. I do not even consider asylums desirable for women—and, if you ask them, they say that they 'would prefer an independent life full of care to the sameness of an asylum, and that one quarrelsome woman often embitters the whole life in an asylum.'

If there is any possibility of establishing pupils of either sex, and of any class, so that they can enjoy the happiness of independence without being exposed to the risk of losing their health, there can be no doubt that it is to be preferred to placing them in asylums.

I am certain that every one of the 250 former pupils of the Dresden Institution now living respectably all over Saxony would say that they would prefer not being in an asylum; and I undertake to provide sufficient aid and care for the Blind who are living outside of the asylum at one-fourth of the cost of supporting the same number inside.

As the power of working alone with success is kept constantly in view, the male pupils learn only basket and rope-making, for there are but few other trades which the Blind can carry on without the aid of sighted persons.

Being acquainted with the condition of each district, from repeated inspections of pupils who have left the Institution, I can judge whether they are likely to succeed best with basket-making or rope-making, and their consultations with their friends generally lead them to agree with my conclusions.

When the pupils have completed their several courses of instruction (usually between the ages of eighteen and twenty) the question can be answered whether the money which the State has granted for Blind Institutions has produced good results, whether the managers have made good use of their time, and whether a beneficent work has been accomplished.

The reply, based on long experience of those who have been working independently, is Yes! But when the pupil returns amongst his poor relations, if he is without tools, without materials, without orders for work, he must soon be forced to beg, so as to avoid being a burden on them, therefore, above all things, he needs an adviser to encourage him.

The Dresden Blind Institution is managed on the principle that the pupils, on commencing independent work, require much assistance before they can support themselves by it, and that the Institution must give the necessary help.

Enquiry is therefore made whether they should settle in their former home, and if not, where they are to live; where they will find a market for the articles which they make; whether their relations are likely to interfere with their work; and also whether they are fit, mentally and bodily, to establish themselves properly, with help from the Institution.

They can generally live at their former homes, because they have been taught that trade which is most likely to succeed there, and, if they find that they cannot dispose of their produce there, they receive permission to offer it for sale in places where there is a demand for it.

The Director of the Institution makes known to the manufacturers that a blind worker is coming to settle near them, and induces some of the families around to take an interest in him and recommend him for employment. He also inserts in the newspapers short notices, describing his capacity for work and his difficulty in finding customers &c., and requesting people to employ him.

It is v ery difficult to prevent the Blind being hindered in their work by the people around them, and if they get into a begging family experience proves that their principles will be undermined; therefore they may sometimes be placed more advantageously with another blind man elsewhere.

Their relations are prevented from objecting to this by being told that the aid afforded by the Institution will be withdrawn if they return home or take to begging.

There are in all institutions some pupils who, though not incapable, yet, after long instruction, cannot be considered likely to support themselves, either from want of strength or skill, and active blind masters are found who can offer them regular work in shops where division of labour is carried out, by giving them only that part which they are fit for. This arrangement is also best for those who are disposed to be lazy or who prove weak-minded.

The outfit required for pupils on leaving the Institution consists of tools and clothing, and materials must also be provided at first.

The cost of these is partly defrayed by the fund established for the purpose, partly by the savings of the pupils, and partly, if necessary, by a grant from the parish.

It is indispensable that the blind worker should have some person near in whom he can fully confide, and from whom he can get advice and help in any time of temporary difficulty, whilst the Managers of the Institution can rely on his taking an interest in the blind worker and seeing that he obeys their rules.

The purchase of raw material causes the greatest difficulty; the blind man has not the means of buying much at a time, and must therefore pay highly for it; therefore the Institution helps him by buying it at wholesale prices and letting him have it at the same price in small quantities. When he requires fresh materials he goes to the above-mentioned friend and gets him to write for them to the Managers, or at any rate to countersign his application, and his endorsement is necessary to prevent sighted workmen getting them at a low price by the aid of the blind man. The number of these applications for materials show the Managers whether the man is industrious, and they are accompanied by reports from this friend.

The Director or his deputy inspects the workers at least once a year, that he may see how they are going on and that obstacles to their success may be removed. The cost of these inspections is very much diminished by the kindness of the railway companies, who have granted free passes in Saxony.

The blind workwomen require a great deal more care, and trouble the minds of the Directors more than the men, for they are not so capable of supporting themselves or of exerting themselves, and they receive the greatest share of assistance from the fund.

They have proved how lucrative and advantageous is the working in hair, for most of them can save money by means of it, and this is especially important for the Blind as it induces them to exert themselves more.

Some of the male Blind make a good business of it, and, if an opportunity arises for them to buy a house, money, to make up the sum required, is lent to them at 4 per cent. on proper security.

More than 200 Blind support themselves in Saxony by means of the aid afforded by the fund and their own exertions. The fund amounted, in 1873, to 85,000 dollars, subscribed in all parts of the country.

In answer to questions, Herr Reinhard stated that they found brush-making would not pay, and that the Blind could not mend boots well.

The voting on the first part of this address is not clearly recorded, but there was a unanimous vote given in favour of the opinion that, when the Blind leave an institution, they ought to receive 'moral and material support from it if they require it and are deserving; and that there should be a fund at each institution for this object.'

APPENDIX V.

EXTRACTS FROM ACTS OF PARLIAMENT BEARING ON
THE BLIND.

4 and 5 Wm. IV. c. 76. *Sec. 56.*—‘All relief given to or on account of . . . any child or children under the age of 16, *not being Blind or Deaf and Dumb*, shall be considered as given to the father of such child or children . . . provided that nothing herein contained shall discharge the father and grandfather, mother and grandmother, of any poor child from their liability to relieve and maintain such poor child in pursuance of the 43rd Elizabeth, cap. 2.’

25 and 26 Vict. c. 43. (1862.) *Sec. 1.*—‘The Guardians of any parish may send any poor child to any school, certified as hereafter mentioned, and supported wholly or partially by voluntary subscriptions, the Managers of which shall be willing to receive such child, and may pay out of the funds in their possession the expenses incurred in the maintenance, clothing, and education of such child therein, during the time such child shall remain at such school (not exceeding the total sum which would have been charged for the maintenance of such child if relieved in the Workhouse during the same period), and in the conveyance of such child to and from the same, and in case of death the expenses of his or her burial.’

Sec. 10.—‘The word ‘School’ shall extend to any Institution established for the instruction of Blind, Deaf, Dumb, Lame, Deformed, or Idiotic.’

Sec. 7.—‘Nothing in this Act shall enable the Guardians to keep any child in any school against the will of such child of above 14, or of the parents or surviving parent whatever be the age of the child.’

31 and 32 Vict. c. 122. *Sec. 42.*—‘The Guardians of any Union or Parish may, *with the approval of the Poor Law Board*, send any poor deaf and dumb, or blind child, to any school fitted for the reception of such child, though such School may not have been certified under the provisions of the Act 25 and 26 Vict., cap. 43.’

30 and 31 Vict. c. 106. (1867.) *Sec. 21.*—‘The Guardians may provide for the reception, maintenance, and instruction of any adult pauper, being blind or deaf and dumb, in any Hospital or

Institution established for the reception of persons suffering under such infirmities, and may pay the charges incurred in the conveyance of such Pauper to and from the same, as well as those incurred on his maintenance, support, and instruction therein.'

30 *Vict. c. 6.*—By 'The Metropolitan Poor Act, 1867, entitled an Act for the Establishment in the Metropolis of Asylums for the Sick, Insane, and other classes of Poor, and of Dispensaries,' and for the distribution over the Metropolis of portions of the charge for poor relief, it is provided that—

Sec. 5.—'Asylums, to be supported and managed according to the provisions of this Act, may be provided under this Act for reception and relief of the Sick, Insane, or Infirm, or other class or classes of the Poor, chargeable in Unions and Parishes in the Metropolis.'

OBJECTS AND MODE OF OPERATIONS

OF THE

CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.*

- I. Object of Society.
- II. Area of Operations.
- III. Mode of Operation.
- IV. District Committees.
- V. Mode of Operation of the Committees.

- VI. Mode of dealing with Cases.
- VII. Mendicants.
- VIII. General Conclusions.
- IX. Cautions to the Public Inquiry.

I.—THE OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY.—The main object of the Society is the improvement of the condition of the poor, (1) by bringing about co-operation between the Charities and the Poor Law, and amongst the Charities; (2) by securing due investigation and fitting action in all cases; and (3) by repressing mendicancy.

II.—AREA OF OPERATIONS.—The Society confines its direct operations to the Metropolitan Poor Law District, but is glad to give general assistance, *e.g.*, by sending information, to agencies outside that district.

III.—MODE OF OPERATION.—Within this area the Society seeks to bring about the formation of at least one Committee side by side with every Board of Guardians, containing representatives of the Board, and of all the Charities at work in the local Poor Law division, whether it be Parish or Union. The Society consists of a federation of such Committees.†

IV.—DISTRICT COMMITTEES.—Each Committee raises and expends its own funds, but to be in union with the Society it must act on the general principles indicated by the Society's 'Suggested Rules,' and must appoint representatives on the Council.‡

V.—MODE OF OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES.—Each Committee establishes an Office to be a centre of charitable organisation in its District.

It appoints one or more Charity Agents to act under its instructions, and especially, (1) to collect particulars as to the action of the Charities of the District, and the relief given by them, and keep such particulars in an accessible form; (2) to receive applications from persons referred to the Office, and to investigate their cases; and (3) to keep up communication with the Relieving Officers of the Guardians.

The inhabitants of the District, whether Subscribers or not, are invited to refer to the Committee all cases requiring investigation. If requested so to do, it communicates the result of such investigation to the person desiring inquiry, and should he wish to undertake the case, leaves it in his hands. In the absence of such wish, the Committee deal with each case to the best of its judgment and ability.

VI.—COMMITTEES' MODE OF DEALING WITH CASES.—The District Committees desire to bring about a division of cases between the Poor Law and the Charities, and also amongst the Charities, so that the most suitable agency may be solely responsible for each case. Cases properly belonging to the Poor Law are therefore passed on to the Guardians. This class includes, strictly speaking, all cases of destitution which are not taken out of it by requiring a kind or amount of relief which the Guardians are forbidden to give.§ But the Charities are generally willing to assist persons of good character to whom temporary aid is likely to be permanently useful. Cases of temporary distress, with evidence of good character and thrift, are therefore looked on by the Committees as suitable for private charity,|| and are referred to the Charity which seems best able to take charge of them. Where other Charities are unable to afford the requisite assistance to such cases, the Committees assist them, if the funds intrusted to them admit of this.

In giving such assistance the Committees refuse to give small weekly doles of food or money, believing that these undermine the independence of the recipient. In suitable cases they willingly give assistance in the form of loans with proper security for repayment. They are ready also, if adequately supported by their District, to give substantial

* Extract from the 'Manual' of the Society.

† The first District Committee (Marylebone) opened its Office, October 1869.

‡ For further particulars with reference to the action of the Council in prosecuting fraudulent charities, and in other ways, and for a list of Affiliated Provincial Associations, see 'Objects and Mode of Operation of the Society.'

§ See Minute of the Poor Law Board, 20th Nov., 1869.

|| The Committees cannot undertake to find the pensions which chronic cases need; but where individuals or special charities are willing to take charge of these, the Committees are ready to send them the names of persons ascertained to be deserving.

CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

PATRON:

THE QUEEN.

PRESIDENT:

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON.

CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL:

THE EARL OF LICHFIELD.

VICE-CHAIRMEN:

LIEUT.-GEN. CAVENAGH. | ALSAGER H. HILL, Esq.

TREASURERS:

H. B. PRAED, Esq., M.P., and M. B. PRAED, Esq.

SECRETARY:

C. S. LOCH, Esq.

ORGANISING SEC.:

C. J. RIBTON-TURNER, Esq.

BANKERS:

MESSRS. COUTTS & CO., 59 STRAND, W.C.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES OF THE SOCIETY:

KENSINGTON—39 Holland Street, W.
FULHAM UNION—7 Brook Green Terrace, Hammersmith Road, W.
PADDINGTON—20 Westbourne Park Terrace, W.
CHELSEA—5a Blacklands Terrace, King's Road, S.W.
ST. GEORGE'S UNION—48 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.
WESTMINSTER UNION—(St. James's and St. Anne's, Soho)—27 Great Pulteney Street, W.
ST. MARYLEBONE—131 Marylebone Road, W.
HAMPSTEAD—Corner of Church Lane, High Street, N.W.
NORTH ST. PANCRAZ and HIGHGATE—120 Highgate Road, N.W.
SOUTH ST. PANCRAZ—17 Woburn Buildings, Euston Road, W.C.
ISLINGTON—8 College Street, Barnsbury, N.
HACKNEY—Old Town Hall, E.
ST. GILES and BLOOMSBURY—7 Arthur Street, New Oxford Street, W.C.
STRAND UNION—13 Beaufort Buildings, W.C.
HOLBOEN UNION—14 Myddelton Street, E.C.
CITY OF LONDON UNION—36 Basinghall Street, E.C.
SHOREDITCH—56 St. John's Road, Hoxton, N.
BETHNAL GREEN—297 Bethnal Green Road, E.
WHITECHAPEL UNION—194 Commercial Road, E.
ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST—194 Commercial Road, E.
STEPNEY UNION—598 Commercial Road, E.
MILE-END OLD TOWN—116 Mile End Road, E.
POPLAR UNION—129 East India Dock Road, E.
ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK—9 St. George's Circus, S.E.
NEWINGTON—Vestry Hall, Walworth Road, S.E.
ST. OLAVE'S UNION, SOUTHWARK—172 Tooley Street, S.E.
LAMBETH—Archbishop Sumner's Schools, Kennington Road, S.E.; and 21 Elizabeth Street, Cornwall Road, Brixton Hill, S.W.
WANDSWORTH and PUTNEY—The Plain, Wandsworth, S.W.
BATTERSEA—175 Battersea High Street, S.W.
CLAPHAM—73 Bromell's Road, Clapham Common, S.W.
CAMBERWELL—1 Grove Lane, S.E.; and Meeting-house Lane, Peckham, S.E.
GREENWICH—14 Haddington Terrace, King Street, S.E.
DEPTFORD—Mission Hall, King Street, Broadway, S.E.
WOOLWICH UNION—5 Eleanor Road, S.E., and 4 Oak Terrace, Shooter's Road, S.E.
LEWISHAM—Lee Bridge, S.E.
ELTHAM—High Street, S.E.
SYDENHAM—The Dispensary, Forest Hill, S.E.

CENTRAL OFFICE: 10 BUCKINGHAM STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.